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California's Proposition 13 may cast a giant shadow—page 14

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Of Test Tubes and Babies

"Test-tube" babies, genetic engineering, and cloning have been the topic of many stories that have appeared recently in newspapers, magazines, and on television. Despite the widespread publicity of these topics, many of us aren't sure just what they mean or what the implications of such procedures are. Dr. Walter E. Nance, chairman of the Department of Human Genetics at VCU/MCV agreed to talk with VCU Magazine *about these and related subjects.*

Nance, a professor of human genetics, medicine, and pediatrics, joined the MCV faculty in 1975. He holds his undergraduate degree from the University of the South, where he was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate; received his M.D. from Harvard Medical School; and earned his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin.

***VCU Magazine.* What is currently taking place at VCU/MCV in the area of genetics, and genetic research?**

Nance. We have recently received funding approval for the Genetic Disease Program, which will fund genetic services in Virginia. This is a result of the Genetics Disease Act that was enacted by Congress three years ago. However, we found there was a great deal of difference between authorization and appropriation. No funds were appropriated during the first two years, but Congress has provided $4 million for the program this year.

The program was set up to end the "Disease a Month Club" where every foundation went to Congress pleading for funds for genetic disease such as hemophilia, Tay-Sachs, and Sickle Cell Anemia. This program is supposed to provide for all of those.

The thrust of the program here will be to develop an integrated network for genetic counseling, education, and screening. We will be working with the University of Virginia, Eastern Virginia Medical School and the State Department of Health. As far as we know, we're one of only half-dozen comprehensive state programs in the country that were funded. We received $230,983 for the first year and we hope it will be renewable.

Q. What do you mean by "genetic counseling, education, and screening"?

Nance. We currently run a genetic counseling clinic that is funded, in part, by the National Foundation for the March of Dimes. We see patients with a wide variety of genetic diseases, there are currently 2,000 recognized genetic diseases and it is virtually impossible for an individual physician to be responsible for being able to make all of these rather obscure diagnoses. We feel very strongly that this counseling-diagnosis should be a team effort at tertiary centers where the team can pool its resources and diagnose genetic disorders. For example, the parents of a retarded child might come into the clinic and we will try to provide a specific diagnosis of a genetic disorder.

Genetic counseling involves providing a prognosis, that is the future expectations for an individual with the disease, and providing parents with information on whether or not subsequent children might be affected. In many instances counseling includes recommending specific preventive measures or treatment regimens.

Another important area of genetic counseling is anti-natal diagnosis, which is a very exciting development that has taken place over the past decade. We run an anti-natal testing service in cooperation with Dr. Faye Redwine and Dr. Robert Petres in the Department of Obsterics and Gynocology. An increasing number of specific diseases can now be diagnosed pre-nately, thereby providing the parents an opportunity to decide whether they want to continue the pregnancy if an abnormal fetus is detected. This offers a reproductive option that we previously didn't have.

There are also genetic diseases diagnosed in early infancy and, thereby, prevent such things as profound mental retardation.

Another broad goal of medical genetics is to detect individuals and couples through screening tests who may have a high risk for developing genetic disorder or having children with a genetic disease.

Q. What do you think will be the implications of the birth of the recent "test-tube" baby in England? Was it a revolutionary step in science?

Nance. The procedure was a revolutionary accomplishment in the same way that any important scientific advance is revolutionary the first time it is achieved. But the genetic implications are no different from those of artificial insemination, which has been widely used for many years. In this instance, the fertilization of the mother's egg by the father's sperm took place *in-vitro*, that is, outside the body. Then several cell divisions took place outside the body before the egg was placed back in the woman's uterus.

As for its value, in its most narrow application, this will be a tremendous boon to couples suffering from certain types of infertility, such as a woman with blocked fallopian tubes.

In my view, the new technology is not greatly different from other scientific procedures—intrinsically it's neither good nor

bad. It's the application that men make of it that raises the moral issue. I think the controversy over the use of atomic energy is a good analogy of a scientific procedure that has great potential for good and evil. The case of the "test-tube" baby, the legal and ethical issues raised by having a third party rear the fetus is an example of one of the novel problems that *in-vitro* fertilization will create for society.

Q. Since this procedure bears some similarity to artificial insemination, it sounds as if there wasn't a great deal of surprise in the scientific community when it took place.

Nance. This is very true. This was not an enormous breakthrough. It had been done previously in lower animals and there were no theoretic barriers, the difficulties were of a more technical nature. Such things as how long to keep the egg out of the body before returning it to the uterus were problems that had to be solved.

Yet, it was very difficult to predict when these problems would be overcome. A panel of experts convened by the National Science Foundation in 1972 predicted that *in-vitro* fertilization would not be accomplished until the end of the 20th Century. Here we are six years later and it has already been accomplished, which makes you realize how imprecise predictions of scientific advances are.

Q. Is there any research of this type going on at MCV?

Nance. I'm not aware of any currently active research in this area. I know that Dr. (Leo J.) Dunn's group in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology had initiated some research in this area a number of years ago, but had to stop when federal guidelines halted research on human fetal material. I'm sure that if the guidelines are relaxed, many more individuals will become involved in this kind of research.

I think it's important to point out here that there are many techniques involving the manipulation of germ cells that have a great potential for giving us important and badly needed knowledge about early human development. In my view the prudent use of these methods should not be prohibited.

Dr. Walter E. Nance, chairman, Department of Human Genetics.

For example, there's a procedure that has been developed by Dr. Patricia Jacobs in Hawaii. She found that when she takes hamster eggs and treats them with a certain enzyme, they can then be fertilized by human sperm. Why fertilize hamster eggs with human sperm? Well, she found that before the genetic material fuses, the human chromosomes uncoil. In a sperm cell they are normally so tightly packed that it is impossible to see individual chromosomes under a microscope. Now by using this technique, scientists will have the ability to look at the chromosomes of a single male sperm cell, and this, for instance, can help us quantify the damage done to genetic material by environmental agents, such as radiation, for example, or perhaps Kepone, to bring it all home to Virginia. Or if you wanted to look at the frequency of abnormal germ cells in individuals who have abnormal offspring, you could sample their germ cells and determine the frequency of sperm cells with an abnormal chromosomonal constitution.

That's an example of the practical utilization of a scientific technique that, at least on the surface, sounds pretty far out.

Q. That's a very unusual procedure. When something like that is publicized, it sometimes leads to visions of hamsters with the minds of Einstein and the physical abilities of a Hercules. Suddenly, you have people talking about a master race of hamsters. Are such misrepresentations a problem in genetics?

Nance. I think the science of genetics has been done a great disservice by the media, which has latched on to these things and conjured up fears that I believe are quite unrealistic. They make good press, they sell newspapers and books. But I would say the likelihood of these things coming to be are much less than the likelihood of the world being destroyed by a nuclear holocaust. And that's not something you read about in the papers every day.

Q. Are we at the point, or reaching the point, where a baby will be produced entirely in the laboratory?

Nance. The technical problems of maintaining a placenta artificially are immensely more complicated than allowing the first few cell divisions to take place outside the body. In order to rear a fetus entirely apart from the womb, a placenta would have to be developed that would allow an exchange of oxygen and nutrients from the external environment. That, it seems to me, is a formidable technical problem.

But, the history of science has been that anything man can imagine, eventually he can do. Thirty years ago, who would seriously have thought man would ever reach the moon? So I don't think the actual test-tube baby is out of the realm of possibility.

Q. What do you see as some of the moral issues of "test-tube" babies, such as the one that was born in England?

Nance. One, that most have raised, I think, is the issue of the surrogate mother. What happens when a woman decides she doesn't want the problems of pregnancy, and gets her sister or some unrelated woman to carry the child? This, it seems to me, does modify many of the essential features of normal parenting process. Of course, this may not be as drastic as we think. After all, we have gotten use to the idea of adopted children and that doesn't seem to be an enormous problem.

But I think there are also some thorny legal problems. What hap-

Every cell contains 46 chromosomes, which make us what we are.

pens when a couple contracts with a third party to carry the child? What claim does the couple have upon the behavior of the woman during pregnancy? Could they insist that she not smoke, since there is evidence that smoking can reduce the weight of the child? Could they insist she not drink alcohol since there is some evidence that alcohol taken in excess causes congenital malformations in the child? And what happens if the woman does these things irrespective of the wishes of the couple and the baby is born with a birth defect? Who is responsible for the welfare of the child, the parents or the surrogate mother?

This is an unfamiliar social relationship and I think, because of advances in biology and science, we are frequently confronted with these unfamiliar new social issues. I think it sometimes takes a generation to become accustomed to new social situations. And I think some people are never able to feel comfortable with changing mores. In the same light, I think there are new scientific developments in reproductive biology that are casting a new light on the process of becoming a parent. These new ideas and relationships are unfamiliar to people who were brought up under different circumstances. Some people are never going to be able to feel comfortable with the changes in our view of life that scientific advances have forced upon us.

I think a good example of this, that is with us today and not quite as off-beat as "test-tube" babies, is the change that anti-natal diagnosis has wrought on parenting process. Parents are very concerned that their children be well born, enough so that they want to seek anti-natal testing if there is a risk for a specific defect and frequently choose to terminate pregnancy if an abnormal fetus is found. This is a dramatic change from 10 years ago when having a mentally retarded child was a trick of fate. At least now people can, in part, have some control over their reproductive fate.

Q. What is the role of the geneticist in these reproductive decisions?

Nance. I want to emphasize the point that the geneticist does not stress his opinion in the matter. It's his job to inform the parents of the diagnosis and show them the reproductive options. It's up to the parents to make the decision. As geneticists we try hard not to impose our value systems on others.

Q. Is there any possibility that *in-vitro* fertilization will lessen the likelihood of children being born with birth defects?

Nance. Quite the contrary. One of the concerns that many people have with *in-vitro* fertilization is the possibility that it might be associated with an increased risk of congenital abnormalities. All we know now is that in this one case, it lead to a child that was apparently normal at birth. Skeptics can say "how do you know the child's IQ wouldn't have been five points higher without *in-vitro* fertilization?" These kinds of questions can only be answered from a very large sample of children born in this way.

I don't visualize *in-vitro* fertilization as an effective method for screening a fetus or for managing the problems of a high-risk couple. One could not obtain the needed information from the second or third cell division to determine if it were a normal fetus. One would probably have to let it develop several months before you could determine whether or not it was normal.

Q. Could you give a definition of genetic engineering and cloning?

Nance. Broadly speaking, genetic engineering is a term that can be applied to any one of many forms of genetic manipulation, such as treatment, modification of genes, or diagnostic procedures. A wide range of techniques fall into this category. The implication usually is that some form of treatment is involved in which some attempt is made to modify the individual, or the progeny of the individual.

Cloning specifically refers to reproduction of multiple copies of the same genetic information. Cloning can take place at the level of a single gene, or can be done with intact organisms. Work with single genes has been greatly stimulated Drs. Daniel Nathans and Hamilton Smith of Johns Hopkins University and Dr. Werner Arber of Switzerland, the recent Nobel Prize winners in Medicine, who found a group of enzymes that would cut up DNA molecules in highly specific ways. DNA contains all of a person's genetic information. These scientists found that certain enzymes would chop DNA molecules into many fragments. They

then found they could take single pieces and copy it, forming a clone, if you will, by introducing it into certain bacteria. As the bacteria grows, thousands of copies of the gene that has been introduced are produced.

I think procedures such as this have enormous potential for human welfare. One example is the production of many copies of the genes that are responsible for the synthesis of human insulin.

Q. With procedures such as this, one of the great fears, not just of laymen but of some scientists as well, it seems, is tampering with genes and ending up with a dangerous or disastrous situation. What are the possibilities of this?

Nance. Again, it's not the technique itself that's good or bad, but the uses that are made of the technology. The capacity of one man to contribute disproportionately to the gene pool of the next generation has always been with us.

Of course, you can view these things in different lights. The idea of several thousand Elvis Presleys might not be equally appealing to everyone. But you can also argue that it wouldn't be a bad idea to have few more of such consumate geniuses as Newton, Einstein, Beethoven, or da Vinci.

We've had human clones for thousands of years in the form of identical twins, and we seem to have been able to have lived with that. If we are ever able to clone human beings, they will be no more alike than identical twins and most likely would be less alike than identical twins.

One of the major theoretic genetic hazards of cloning is that it might reduce the genetic variance in the population. No two individuals, other than identical twins, have identical genes. This is very important to the survival of the species, because if we all had the same genotype, we might be susceptible to specific diseases. A possible example of this is the Eskimos' susceptibility to many infectious diseases brought in by Western man.

But this is something that could come about only with the extreme application of this technology and is something I don't think we need to be too worried about.

Cloning will always be a cumbersome way of reproducing, and I would think that most people would prefer natural methods. Maybe that will be our salvation.

Q. Still, people are worried about the dangers and abuses of cloning and genetic engineering. And they might even say your arguments are typical of a scientist. Are such procedures worth the risks involved?

Nance. Life is full of balancing relative risks. And again, I don't believe it's the technology, but the unscrupulous use of the technology, that causes the concerns. And I honestly believe there are many more real and pressing threats—smoking and pollution for example—that constitute more present threats than concern over misapplication and abberations of cloning. In my view the threat of someone reproducing 100 Hitlers is much less than the threat that a madman might poison the water supply of a large city. In spite of that possibility, we don't place armed guards around the water supply. Maybe we should.

You have to draw a balance here. There is always the possibility of one scientist creating havoc with DNA. But this is not a very efficient way to create havoc. There are much easier ways to do this.

Part of the problem is that these procedures are new and people are very wary of anything that is new. However, a lot of restrictions have been put on research in this area, especially with concern to recombinant DNA. This was unprecedented because it was the scientists who initiated the request to be policed. When this research began, I think there was a genuine concern about it and some incredibly complex and creative safeguards were enacted. As more experience has been gained with these procedures there now seem to be less need for concern. But turning off a federal bureaucracy is a monumental task.

Another point worth mentioning is that regulations in the United States have no bearing on any research that might be taking place in China, Russia, or anyplace else in the world.

Q. This is all very informative and reassuring, but there are still going to be some who will say "he's a geneticist, what else is he going to say, he's going to protect his profession." What can you say to reassure those people?

Nance. I do think that scientists, and geneticists among them, have an obligation to educate the public and make them aware of the problems confronting them. I think the public has a voice, and should have a voice, in how its research dollars are spent. This is a very healthy change in science that has occurred in the last decade or so. Scientists have a growing sense of responsibility for making their research findings comprehensible to laymen, for informing them of the social consequences of scientific work, and, particularly, of the potential benefits.

Of course, this pendelum can swing too far, to the point where you have all research for practical, applied use only. This would eliminate some of sciences' greatest discoveries.

I think, though, that we have to recognize the limitations of education. Some individuals will simply never feel comfortable with the new ideas and technologic capabilities that scientific advances bring. These people also deserve a voice in the decision making process. This view of the world—and what is natural or unnatural—may be just as valid as the scientists'.

My personal opinion is that whenever the mind of man conceives of a scientific advance, and is able to bring it to fruition, this then becomes a natural process for homo-sapiens, whose greatest gift is their mind.

Q. Would you say then, that most scientists' interest in research is more than just a scientific interest, that they are interested in helping others?

Nance. I think the work we are involved in here, pre-natal diagnosis, helping infertile couples have children, and providing genetic counseling, are an expression of a very profound reverence for life. Life is not something we take lightly.

Death is No Dead End

The publicity afforded extra-sensory perception (esp), the occult, and other similiar topics has steadily increased in recent years. VCU students have reported difficulty in knowing how to evaluate or respond to accounts of this sort, and repeatedly asked for a course in this area. The class, Psychology 307, Parapsychology, was first offered in 1975, taught by Dr. Glenn Hawkes. It has been given nine times since, and the fall 1978 semester class had an enrollment of 133 and more students had to be turned away.

This course reviews the evidence – case reports, field studies, and laboratory experiments — on what are believed by parapsychologists to be basic human abilities. These are telepathy, clairvoyance, precognition, and psychokinesis, and a review of their complex form in actual psychic events. Included are ghosts and other apparitions, mediums and spirit communication, death experiences, poltergeists, out-of-body experiences, faith healing, and dreams.

The main purpose of the course is to help students form a basis for critical thinking so they can reach rational decisions about these and other psychic events constantly being publicized. Another purpose is to help students deal with their own experiences — one survey showed that 80 percent of VCU's students report some sort of psychic experience.

Unfortunately, no textbook has ever been written to help in this process, even though there are over 100 courses of this sort given throughout the United States. Therefore, it was necessary to research many areas of psychic phenomena in order to offer the course. Ghosts, spiritualism, and life after death are three areas that have been reviewed. The following deals with the "other side of death."

By Dr. Glenn R. Hawkes

If there's one thing we can be certain of in this life, it's that we will die. So, its not surprising that many have a great deal of interest in death and life after death. While there are no definite answers on what really exists after death, much recent work in the area seems to give the impression that there is something.

One of the major works on the after-death experience is the book *Life After Life* by Raymond Moody, a psychiatrist at the University of Virginia. Moody interviewed people who had "near-death" experiences, finding clear and vivid accounts of a predictable sequence of events that included out-of-body projections and contact with spirits, some of which were of an entirely different nature, described as "beings of light." After a brief review of their lives, the people were told to return for completion of their life experiences.

Moody's book, and other recent work on adjustment to dying, has made discussions of death much more acceptable in our society. Both patients who are dying and their families must work through stages of adjustment, and even if a person dies suddenly, surviving relatives still must go through this process.

The best available data on the death experience have been surveys and interviews concerning the deathbed observations of physicians and nurses in the United States and India. These reports generally support the findings of Moody, and show that many patients report contact with "visionary figures," usually recognized as people who have already died. Patients in India frequently believe the figures represent religious dieties. These "figures" are apparently there for the purpose of comfort and guidance. Sudden elevations in the mood of patients follow these appearances, and they usually die soon after they occur — many died within 10 minutes and 62 percent within the same day.

Considering the universal dread of death in our culture, it is very surprising to find that practically all of these seem to be happy experiences. The dominant emotional reactions were elation, exaltation, joy, peace, and serenity.

Dying patients may report "environments" in addition to people, ranging from "gardens of paradise" to "earthly factories." Two-thirds of these visions picture another world, with 32 percent places and objects of this world. In only one case (out of over 50,000 studied carefully) was there a report of seeing "Hell." Most report light, brightness, beauty, "heaven-like" scenes, music and extraordinary color.

While nearly all describe "great beauty beyond reality," joy, peace, and serenity, only 17 percent report conventional Christian, Hindu, or Moslem ideas of the other world. What is reported, however, nearly always is fashioned after "this-world" ideas — flowers, trees, gardens, streams, tall buildings or castles, temples, and even staircases. It is rare, though, to encounter any mythological "playing of harps," "pearly gates," or "streets paved with gold."

After compiling reviews on what is known of ghosts and other apparitions, mediums and "spirit communications," and death experiences, I was struck by the consistency and similarity of reports on what has been termed "the other side of death." That is, what another existence is like as a "spirit" or "energy-pattern" that survives death. This consistent pattern of an afterworld also is surprisingly similar to writings in many religious traditions. Please note that the resultant description remains highly speculative despite the high frequency of repetition of these elements and their agreement with various writings.

The Other Side

It is consistently reported that the after-death environment includes a number of planes or spheres of existence. Each of these is said to be a complete environment, progressively succeeding each other in their characteristics of beauty, variability, and freedom of action, or in the degree of "spiritual evolution." In all of these, some sort of body or independence of individual existence is said to continue, even though some larger identification or "group soul" may be possible in higher spheres.

Most frequently, it is reported that there are three distinct classes of spheres. The lower ones are illusionary and similar to classical descriptions of Hades or Purgatory. A second level has been described in terms such as Paradise or Summerland; and a third class representing much higher evolution, a radical departure from earth-like environments but still with some recognizable objects and scenery. Many writers have indicated a system of seven spheres, each divided into a number of realms (many report seven realms). The lowest sphere is reported as being close to or coincident with the earth. Higher ones are progressively farther away from the earth's surface. The distances writers indicate usually are symbolic, to indicate the degree of difference from conditions in our world.

The lower levels are described as humid and dark, with few dwellings, where inhabitants are gross and animalistic. These have been called "penal planes where souls who erred in life gradually reform and improve so that they may later take their place in higher spheres." In a second sphere intermediate between this lowest level and Paradise, vices are not of a primary nature, and buildings are said to be those of our normal world. In the third sphere, the cities are clean and free, food can be eaten but is not necessary, and things such as clothes are created by thought control. Many writers have suggested that clothes have a predominant hue dependent upon which sphere a person inhabits. Time is said not to be perceived as on earth, and although it might take hundreds, even thousands, of "years" to progress from one sphere to another, subjectively it does not seem of importance. Progress from one sphere to the next frequently is said to involve a sort of death-rebirth phenomenon, but most writers note that those in higher spheres can and do help inhabitants of lower ones.

A number of general characteristics may be reported, based on a synthesis from many sources:

Spirits do not age, but take on the appearance of earthly bodies as when one is young and vigorous; the appearance of age 27 seems typical.

Sleep is not required but a person may engage in it if desired, and usually does until habit patterns are altered.

A sense of joy and peace is characteristic of all but the lowest spheres.

The apparent illumination level increases progressively in the higher spheres; the higher the sphere, the higher the light level, but it does not hurt the eyes.

Education and development of talents and abilities is continuous, with spirits from higher spheres acting as tutors.

Travel takes place by thought control, and this can be walking or instantaneous.

Music is present for inspiration, at least in higher spheres.

Seasonal changes apparently do not occur, but scenery of various sorts, such as snow, exist and can be visited.

There are many mentions of rivers, lakes, and streams, with water seemingly a universal symbol of vitality.

Fluctuations of moods occur only in lower spheres; in higher levels there is control of emotions.

Spirits in higher spheres serve as guides to lower ones and also act as "guardian angels" to people still alive.

All occupations are practiced and literature and the arts are prominent; the main motive is service to others.

Personal or selfish aims or ambitions do not exist in higher spheres.

Memory is perfect and always immediate, and there is no division of conscious and unconscious mind — there is total memory recall.

Children grow to adulthood, and experiences are given to make up for those missed in life.

Telepathy is used for symbolic communication, as in our dreams, which eliminates language barriers and any misunderstanding or deception.

Clairvoyance is used for seeing or hearing at a distance.

Even in the higher spheres the spirit must assume some sort of form, but this can be angelic or even a flame.

Reincarnation may occur but it is rare and occurs only if there

is a problem demanding another existence; possession of the living by an evil spirit is possible though not likely.

It is apparent from this information that the individual is largely responsible for the environment and rate of progress. And in all spheres from the third onward, colors are unusually vivid, additional hues are perceived, and everything glows in a jewel-like way. It should be noted that some reports of visual reactions to substances such as mescalin, as reported by Aldous Huxley and others, are similar to these. Also similar are reports of "mystical visions" from various religious leaders and writers such as Swedenborg, Emerson, Whitman, Blake, and many others.

A Comparison — The World of Tibetan Buddhists

The prudent and appropriately skeptical reader at this point may well ask just how much of the above could be simple "wish-fulfillment" from the unconscious of writers and reporters of experiences. Even if accurately reported, the descriptions maybe true for people only with the same experiences and expectations as their own, and still not true for most people. No absolute proof is possible with present techniques, but it may be of interest to compare these mainly Western ideas with those of many centuries ago, from an entirely different culture — the after-death world of Buddhists of Tibet.

The Tibetan Book of the Dead (W. Y. Evans-Went, Oxford University Press, 1960) is testified to as authentic by yoga masters who claim to have died and been re-born with previous-life memories intact, by communications with spirits, and by mystical and religious experiences. Whatever its souce, the book represents a distillation of Tibetan cultural tradition. It purports to be a set of instructions for those who are dying or who have recently died. Three sections are given, each offering the dying or dead person instructions and guidance to assist adjustment to the new environ-

ment. These instructions are believed to be important, for the after-death environment is "controlled by the thoughts of the person." The first section describes experiences to be expected at the time of death; another part hypothesizes a dream-like state which starts following the death process, in which a number of "karmic" illusions occur. A final section describes events that take place and culminate in re-birth if one has not escaped the requirement for reincarnation. The entire process takes 49 "days"—not to be taken literally, but rather as 49 units of a progressive sequence. Some of the fundamental ideas are as follows:

All conditions, states, realms of existence, heavens, hells, and worlds, are entirely dependent upon phenomena and are nothing but phenomena.

All phenomena are transitory, illusionary, unreal, and non-existent, save in the mind perceiving them.

In reality there are no such beings anywhere as gods, demons, or other creatures — all alike being phenomena dependent upon a cause.

This cause is a yearning or thirsting after sensation, as when one was alive.

So long as this cause is not overcome by Enlightenment, death follows birth and birth death, unceasingly.

The after-death existence is but a continuation, under changed conditions, of the illusionary existence of the human world — both states alike being karmic.

Psychologically speaking, it is a prolonged dream-like state, in what may be called the fourth dimension of space, filled with hallucinatory visions directly resultant from the mental-content of the perceiver; happy and heaven-like if the karma be good, miserable and hell-like if the karma be bad.

Unless Englightenment be won, rebirth in the human world, directly from the death-world or from any paradise or hell to which karma has led, is inevitable.

Enlightenment results from realizing the unreality of existence. Such a realization is possible in the human world, or during the whole of the after-death state, or in certain of the non-human realms.

Emancipation comes from the realization of Nirvana.

Nirvana is not illusionary, being beyond all paradises, heavens, hells, and worlds.

Nirvana is the ending of sorrow: it is *reality*.

He who achieves Nirvana is in a realm devoid of earth and water, fire and air. It is not endless space, nor infinite thought, nor nothingness; neither ideas nor non-ideas. It is neither a coming nor a departing, nor a standing still, nor death, nor birth. It is without a basis, progress, or a stay; it is the ending of sorrow.

This extract should indicate some similarities and also differences with the previously described "other side." Some differences are more apparent than real, however. Carl Jung, the Swiss psychiatrist, has noted that it is typical of Oriental writings to present the ultimate and highest principles first. This would be analagous to beginning a detective story with the statement, "The butler did it." The order of events is reversed from Western tradition, with the stated purpose of preparing the soul for a descent into physical being, as opposed to Christian ideas of slow development toward what has been called Ultimate Perfection.

It certainly is similar to previous ideas that the environment, the surroundings and events, are thought projections. Even the notion of karma, a sort of psychic residue or psychic heredity or guilt from one's life, may not be as different from Western teachings as it might seem. Christianity hypothesizes rewards or punishments in the after-life dependent on what was done in this one. The idea of spheres or levels of development is described in the Tibetan book as "days." This is not fundamentally at odds with the description of seven levels divided into seven realms or parts for each one.

The claim that the dead usually "do not know they are dead" and need help from living persons using instructions from a book such as the Tibetan one or a similar Egyptian version, agrees with what many mediums have said. Spiritualists in this country long have operated "rescue missions," for the purpose of helping "earthbound entities" realize they are dead so they can turn their attention to spiritual improvement. The spiritualists believe that a number of possession cases, contacts with an "incubus," alcoholism and other problems, have been helped by such a procedure.

The idea of reincarnation for everyone, an almost-endless birth-rebirth cycle, is clearly a difference. Reincarnation has been repulsive to the Western culture, at least since the exclusion of Gnostic teachings from the mainstream of Christianity. But it is interesting to note that the idea still survives here — for example, in the images used on Tarot cards. This may be only a difference of emphasis, however, for many mediums have suggested that reincarnation is possible. The greatest medium that America ever produced, Edgar Cayce, certainly believed that it could and did occur.

Whatever one's evaluation of the agreement of ideas across centuries of time or cultures as providing corroboration and support, all such descriptions of after death environments remain a matter of speculation. Although interesting, no verification is possible at present, and no absolute proof exists. VCU's course in parapsychology examines data of this sort, results of laboratory and field studies, and many other sources, in order to address transcendent questions of interest to everyone. We like to examine very closely evidence on whether or not there is survival of physical death; and if so, what sort of survival.

Teeming Up Against Arthritis

Arthritis is not a fatal disease. But some who suffer from it probably wish it was.

Arthritis affects more than 20 million people in the United States severely enough that they are under medical supervision. For some, the pain is constant. For others, life is a roller coaster ride of pain one day, no pain the next, and excruiating pain the day after that. The direct cost of medical care for arthritis per year is estimated to be more than $4 billion. The cost in terms of physical suffering and mental anguish is equally high.

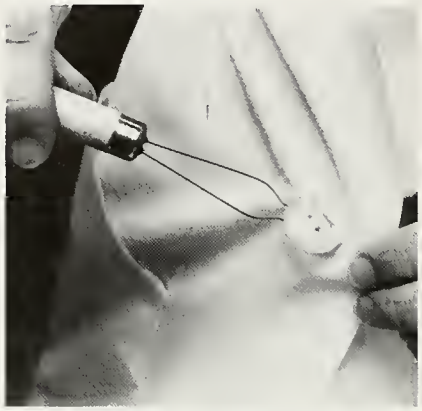
These reasons were some of the motivating factors behind the inception of the arthritis team treatment program at MCV.

"We felt the patients needed more comprehensive care," says Sarah Liddle, a rehabilitation counselor at MCV. "And all the needed specialists were available here."

The team treatment program in medicine is not a new concept. Already in existence at MCV is the cancer team treatment program, as well as a similar project for diabetics. The arthritis treatment program began in June of 1978, mainly through the efforts of Liddle and Eileen Ganhewa, a family nurse practicioner at MCV.

"Eileen was instrumental in getting this program started," Liddle says. "She's been here for a while and she knew how to go through the proper channels."

What they have started is a patient care team composed of doctors, counselors, therapists, pharmacists, and nurses.



Self-help devices such as button fasteners, and spray can depressors, can make life easier for arthritics.

"It used to be that patients would go in, spend 15 minutes with a doctor, and they would be finished," Liddle says. That isn't the case anymore.

Out-patients who arrive for their Monday or Tuesday morning appointments now are first given the opportunity to hear lectures on various topics relating to arthritis, such as nutrition or quakery. These lectures often turn into group discussions, allowing patients to share their experiences with others suffering from similar afflictions.

"The discussion groups have exposed people to the fact that someone else has the same problem," says Barbara McGhee, who has been an arthritis out-patient at MCV since 1975. "Talking to others relieves a lot of the tension, it gives us a chance to laugh about arthritis for a change."

Following the group meeting, patients have the opportunity to talk not only with their doctors, but with a variety of other health-care professionals as well. A family nurse practioner is always on hand, as well as Liddle. Also in attendance is either a physical or an occupational therapist. These therapists consult with patients, offering on the spot advice or demonstrations of helpful exercises; or they might recommend to the doctors that patients be referred to one of the therapists for more extensive treatment.

With all these people around, it sounds as if it could get confusing, but McGhee says that isn't the case.

"Having the others there is a big help. It's easy to ask them questions. The doctors are so busy that you don't want to waste their time with little nit-picking questions. But now, there are these other people available, and that's a big help."

McGhee, a graduate of VCU and a field representative for the Social Security Administration, also has found another advantage to the team program.

"I learn things there that enable me to help other people," she says. "For example, I didn't realize there were as many self-help devices available as there are (self-help devices are aids in doing such tasks as buttoning buttons, opening doors, and grasping drinking glass that might be difficult for arthritics under normal circumstances.) Now, I'm able to tell others about them."

Another advantage of the program is that it lets the patients know that someone cares about and understands their problems. This is particularly true in Liddle's case, as she suffers from rheumatoid arthritis.

"That makes a difference," she says, "I know what it's like to be in pain, sometimes for 24 hours-a-day."

While Liddle is the rehabilitation counselor of the group, she says that "The psychological needs of the patients are taken care of by everyone. Everybody is attuned to the disease and the needs caused by the disease."

No one is more attuned to the disease than the attending physicians. And it was with their blessings the team treatment program began.

"We never could have gotten this started without the backing of Dr. (Shaun J.) Ruddy and the other division members," Liddle says. "A doctor can't be an expert in all the areas of patient care. Now, we let him treat the joint, and we can take care of all the rest. It might seem like this program is taking away the doctor's power. But in a sense, it's giving him more power. It gives him more time to treat the patient."

Ruddy, who is professor and chairman of the Division of Immunology and Connective Tissue, appreciates several aspects of the team program.

"Previously, a lot of the education of the patient was conducted as best we could," he says, speaking of the doctors. "Now that has been taken over by the team, giving us more time to spend with the patient on the patient's problem. Now we have more time to listen to the patient.

"I think the nice thing about the team has been that it has been spontaneous. People did this on their own without any shoving. There was no command for an arthritis team. When things arise spontaneously, they usually work better."

Dr. Duncan S. Owen, Jr., professor of medicine, thinks things are working out well for the patients, also.

"Now the patient has more time spent with them by people other than the doctor," he says. "The patients can benefit from the expertise of the others. An occupational therapist may be able to suggest a splint or other device to help prevent the occurrance of a deformity. Or an OT may be more aware than the physician of the availability of certain devices. With these people available, the patients can get an immediate appointment and, in many instances, immediate gratification."

Dr. Hayes Willis, a Fellow in the Division of Immunology and Connective Tissue at MCV, treats a variety of arthritic ailments.

The one thing they can't get from their visit to MCV is an immediate cure. Treatment and medication are available, but, as yet, there is no cure for arthritis.

"But that doesn't mean there isn't any hope," Liddle says. "If they're in a good treatment program, there's no excuse for anyone ending up in a wheelchair. If they have early and proper treatment, they really have a good chance of learning to live with the disease."

Liddle and the other members of the treatment team hope they can make that living a little more tolerable for their patients.

A Taxing Proposition

The tax upon land values (single tax) is the most just and equal of all taxes. It is the taking by the community, for the use of the community, of that value which is the creation of the community.

From Progress and Poverty, *1879, by Henry George, American writer and lecturer on political economy.*

Mr. George might have a difficult time finding anyone who would agree with him today. No one likes to pay taxes; no one ever has. There has probably never been a time in history when the taxed did not complain about the level of taxation. And people have found a way to protest excessive taxation.

It's called Proposition 13 and it has been made famous in California. Now, its popularity is sweeping the countryside and practically every politician running for or holding office is promising some sort of Proposition 13-like tax cutting measure at the local, state, or national level. Even in Virginia, which has a rather low property tax rate, legislators are promising to introduce tax-cutting bills at this session of the General Assembly.

There has been a lot of talk about Proposition 13, but everyone is not aware of its specifics. The act: limited real property taxes to 1 percent of market value; determined market value as of the 1975-76 property tax assessments or the value at the time of later construction or change in ownership of property; provided that the assessed value of real estate for property tax purposes cannot be increased by more than 2 percent per year; and precluded other taxes from being increased except by two-thirds vote of all members of the legislature at the state level or a two-thirds vote of those eligible to vote at the local level.

But as Robert D. Behn, associate professor at Duke University's Institute of Sciences and Public Affairs, pointed out in the *Wall Street Journal,* "the Proposition 13 message is not all that clear. What the people tell their political leaders is filled with contradictions."

Whether Proposition 13 is going to be a boon or boondoggle remains to be seen, for as Dr. Dennis O'Toole, associate professor of economics at VCU, points out, "The cost of Proposition 13 is going to be measured in the long run, not the short run."

There are, though, some immediate effects as a result of the passage of the legislation.

Dr. O'Toole had the opportunity to view Proposition 13 action first hand during the 1977-78 academic year. During that time he served as project director for the California State University and College System Economic Literacy Project. He was headquartered in Fullerton, Calif.

The Good

The most obvious result of Proposition 13 has been a lowering of property taxes for the residents of California. Homeowners there feared that property taxes were increasing at such a rate that eventually people would lose their houses because they would be unable to pay the tax on them. This was of particular concern to the retired and elderly.

Property taxes in California were high. Of the top 10 areas in the country in terms of such taxes, five of the localities were in California. The highest was the Nassau-Suffolk area of New York state. Others in the top 10 were New York City, Newark, N.J., Detroit, and Boston.

Proposition 13 may also have positive effects on issues other than property taxes.

"Prop 13 has resulted in charges being applied for goods and services that were previously supported entirely by taxes, such as admission to museums and beaches, recreational leagues, and garbage collection. This has its advantages," O'Toole says. "People have a tendency to view such things as free goods and services, and when something is free, it tends to be abused. Since people are paying for the cost of these things now, they may tend to appreciate them more and take

Many are in the dark about the implications of Proposition 13

better care of them."

Proposition 13 may also give individuals a larger voice in their governments, especially at the local level.

"The overall result of this could be positive," O'Toole says. "It's going to force us to measure how much government we want. Prop 13 was a way to protest against local governments. It gave individuals the opportunity to have a say in local expenditures."

In fact, another reason for Proposition 13-type acts may be the high cost of government. It's not just welfare, opulent office buildings, and high-salaried public officials that drive tax bills up. Many cities and states provide services that could be taken care of by individuals. For example, residents of Richmond are provided with garbage service by the city taxes. But residents of some surrounding towns and counties must find their own way to dispose of the garbage.
to dispose of the garbage.

"People don't realize that many of the services they get are paid for by taxes. If people want to reduce tax costs, the government is going to have to go back to providing services that individuals can't provide for themselves. Governments are going to have to concentrate on offering essential social services," O'Toole says.

"Governments have taken over a lot of functions that individuals can take care of on their own. In states where this is the case, Proposition 13 has the greatest appeal," he adds.

Apparently, as tax-cutting promises fill the air, that thought has not been lost on those seeking or holding elected office.

"Proposition 13 clearly had a political message that was not limited to California," says Dr. William F. Hellmuth, chairman of VCU's Department of Economics, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, and expert on public finance. "We all have an agenda of what types of government spending we would like to see cut. I personally feel there is a lot of fat in all big organizations and there is room for improvement. But you are going to get small improvements unless you

are willing to give up big areas of service.

"But, if people are happy with services at that level, then it will reflect a better use of resources. I think we're going to get some pretty good tests on that."

Such tests will probably not be coming in Virginia for a while. Neither O'Toole nor Hellmuth think that the Old Dominion is ripe for such legislation.

"California's whole level of taxes is quite a bit higher than those here," Hellmuth says. "And property taxes in Virginia are not counted on as heavily as a source of revenue as in California and other states.

"Virginia's government is relatively efficient and free of scandal, so there is less suspicion of government here than in other

If Proposition 13 has done nothing else, it has given homeowners a secure feeling.

states. The Virginia legislature is relatively thrifty in its appropriations. Plus, Governor (John N.) Dalton is attempting to hold back spending as did his predecessor, Mills E. Godwin, Jr. Of course, cutbacks mean that increases will be less than what they normally might have been."

Another reason Proposition 13 passed in California but might not pass here and in other states is available cash on hand. California had a surplus of $5 billion in its treasury at the time of the Proposition 13 vote. This was expected to be roughly equivalent to one year of lost revenue due to the proposition. Several years earlier, when there was no surplus,

voters had rejected a similar amendment.

But there are two sides to every Proposition 13, and it's conceivable that every result of the cut will not be beneficial.

The Bad

A very wise man, or one who had just done a high-wire balancing act with his checkbook, once said, "nothing in life is free." And so it is with Proposition 13.

Yes, it does cut taxes. Yes, it does give people more say in their governments. Yes, it can create a greater fiscal consciousness among the public. But, no, it can't be achieved without someone paying for it in some way.

"Proposition 13 is unrealistic as to how efficient or honest people can be," Hellmuth believes. "The present climate has put tax slashers on the offensive and tax reformers on the defensive. People are stirred up and on the right track, but they may not be going in the right direction."

The program that may stand to suffer the most at the hands of tax slashers is education. And if education suffers, everyone suffers, eventually.

In California, one school system near San Francisco has decided to replace textbooks every nine years instead of over previous four-year periods.

"A text is usually two years behind when it is published," O'Toole says. "Replacing it every nine years would result in a loss of quality in education. But the people who make this type of decision aren't worried about nine years down the road. These are political decisions that must be made now."

Another immediate affect of Proposition 13 was the closing of summer schools in California.

"California's elementary and secondary schools and community colleges are all supported by local taxes," O'Toole says. "So in order to cut cost, summer schools were canceled. This raised an immediate complaint from the parents of handicapped children, whose children received free special education in the summer."

Should such policies continue, it's not just the parents of the handicapped who will need to complain.

"Education has social benefits that accrue to society," O'Toole says. "There's a relationship between education and the crime rate. There's a relationship between education and wages. So something like Proposition 13 may have its indirect affects. We may see a rise in the crime rate or we may see fewer people escape poverty level standards of living."

There may also be other subtle affects of such legislation.

"We might see a cutback in teachers, leading to larger classes, leading to less individualized attention, and the results of this may show up in lower test scores," O'Toole adds.

Even limiting non-essential services is going to cause some suffering. As is the case with most things in this life, the haves will continue to have, and the have-nots will continue to go without.

"In a sense," O'Toole says, "this will discriminate against the poor. Wealthy and middle income people will still be able to afford the $1 or $2 admission charge to a museum. But a poor family won't, and this can result in a drop in educational quality, because, after all, going to a museum is an educational experience.

"Wealthy and middle income families will still be able to buy more up-to-date textbooks. But a poor family, with three or four children, may be completely cut off."

And that brings up the question of welfare. Like taxes, welfare is also something that people have complained, and always will complain, about. Proponents of the "no work, no eat" ethic have never been fond of welfare. And welfare frauds have done little to enhance the image or popularity of the program among those who pay for it. But the fact that many people need governmental support of some type cannot be overlooked.

"People are very concerned about waste and fraud in welfare payments in this country, and rightly so," Hellmuth says. "But people are not nearly so stirred up about cheating on taxes, which probably totals more than all the losses on welfare.

"An individual who goes from a $4,000-$5,000-a-year welfare situation to a $7,000-a-year job can experience a tax increase of 125 percent. If we can find a way to make that change more equitable, maybe we could solve some of the problems with welfare."

With the advent of Proposition 13-type legislation, there may be more problems with welfare than ever. If voters went to the polls with the idea that they were going to be able to limit welfare payments, they were wrong. Most welfare funding comes from the federal government, and to limit welfare payments at the local level is to cut down on the revenue of a locality.

In fact, it is not beyond the realm of possibility that Proposition 13 could lead to increased welfare payments. If public employees, policemen, firemen, and teachers, are fired, their source of income will be gone. These people still have to eat, and jobs will be difficult to find. Thus, some may seek aid from the government in some form of welfare.

"There's a certain deception here," Hellmuth says. "Some of the apparent savings as a result of Proposition 13 may turn up in costs of other kinds.

"If the private sector doesn't pick up the jobs that the public sector abolishes, there is going to be an unemployment problem. And there is a lot of debate as to whether cuts in taxes and spending act as an economic stimulant or depressent."

Tax-cutting legislation has created a time to wonder, especially about such things as textbooks and other school supplies.

And there's at least one other disadvantage to Proposition 13.

"The measure reduces the independence of local governments by limiting their primary source of revenue, property taxes. This gives more power to state and federal legislatures, where powers to tax have not been restricted," Hellmuth says.

Californians may also be surprised at the amount of money they will save as a result of passing Proposition 13.

Of the $7 billion that is expected to be returned to the taxpayers, $3 billion is expected to go to out of state individuals and corporations that own land in California. Therefore, it is unlikely that this money will be plowed back into California economy. Some sources estimate that as much as $2 billion will be passed on to the federal government in the form of increased income taxes. This is because property taxes are a deduction for federal tax purposes and Californians will now have less to deduct. That leaves $2 billion to be spread among the home and business owners in California.

As far as O'Toole and Hellmuth are concerned, there may be less painful, more practical ways to reduce governmental spending.

The Alternatives

"Proposition 13 dealt with only one level of taxation and spending," O'Toole says. "There are other ways of accomplishing good fiscal practices, such as zero-based budgeting. There is some zero-based budgeting going on in the federal government now.

"There are also sunset laws that set time limits for the existence of government programs. As the program nears its expiration date, the agency is evaluated as to its need and effectiveness. This forces someone to look at every agency at some point and decide if it is essential. If these things are done correctly, they offer hope for the economic situation."

While Hellmuth is not sold on property taxes, he thinks there might be a way to make them more palatable.

"Property taxes are visible and inconvenient," he says. "Once a year you have to ante up the full price, so you don't become numb to it. These taxes might be easier to endure if they were spread out quarterly. People could adjust to that better than making one large payment every year."

Still, Hellmuth thinks there are better alternatives to Proposition 13.

"Some other things make more sense. For example, you can require that spending in the state not rise above a set percentage of personal income of the state. Tennessee does this and government isn't allowed to grow unless it is affordable."

For now, however, Proposition 13 and other approaches to tax reduction and spending are in vogue. And how well the people of California live with them is going to have a great bearing on the rest of the country.

"The problem with Proposition 13-type legislation is that it assumes there is waste in a budget to begin with," O'Toole says. "But the assumption of waste and how it will be cut are two different animals.

"The point that I think should be made is that it is important to make a decision on what should be cut when tax revenues are slashed, and not leave it to chance as Proposition 13 did."

Lights for television cameras caused Isaac Singer to briefly don sunglasses during his visit to VCU.

For Whom the Nobel Tolls

Lady Luck smiled on VCU in the spring of 1978, but no one knew it at the time. When Isaac Bashevis Singer canceled his scheduled appearance on campus last spring, we had to wonder if he was another of those who signed a contract and then considered it no more than an obligation of convenience.

But on October 24, Singer showed up, and for its patience, VCU was rewarded not only with a great author, but a Nobel Prize Laureate as well. For on October 5, the Swedish Academy of Letters had named Singer the 1978 recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature. But as we were all soon to find out, our luck really wasn't that we, through foresight or fortune, had invited a Nobel Prize winner, but rather, that we had the privilege to listen to a great author, a man of depth, understanding, and kindness.

Singer, 74, was born in Radzymin, Poland. His grandfather and father were rabbis, and Singer studied at the Rabbinical Seminary in Warsaw, but chose not to become a rabbi. Instead, he went to work as a journalist for the Yiddish press in Poland after completing his studies.

"I knew my faith wasn't as strong as my father's" he said of his reason for breaking the family's rabbinical tradition. "He believed everything was handed to Moses on the mountain. But my beliefs weren't that strong, I knew that the laws were man-made."

Singer came to the United States in 1935 and began working for the *Jewish Daily Forward*, in New York City. He still works and lives there.

Singer originally wrote in Hebrew, but long ago adopted Yiddish as his medium of expression. His works, which include *The Family Mosket, A Friend of Kafka, A Crown of Feathers, Shosha*, a book of memoirs *A Young Man in Search of Love*, and a number of children's books have all been translated into English.

In addition to his Nobel Prize, Singer has also been recipient of two National Book Awards, the Louis Lamed Prize, and a grant from the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

VCU was Singer's last lecture stop before going to accept his Nobel Prize in January.

"I enjoy traveling and meeting people," he said, "but my doctor has told me I have to quit if I'm going to Stockholm to accept the prize. But I decided I wasn't going to miss Richmond."

While on campus, Singer participated in morning press confer-

ence, an afternoon assembly with faculty and students, and presented an evening lecture. His favorite part of each program seemed to be fielding questions posed from each audience. Singer said "there are no such things as stupid questions, just stupid answers." But it seems apparent from the following, that there aren't any stupid answers either.

Q. Was Winning the Nobel Prize the most cherished moment in your life?

A. I would say so. No writer writes for prizes and many great writers never won a prize. I was surprised to win, I didn't even know they knew about me.

But it would be hard to say what the most cherished moment has been in my life. Whenever something happened that should have made me happy, I always asked myself 'Singer are you happy?', and the answer was always no. My inner self always had an explanation why. If a person is happy, he has nothing more to hope for, and hope is the essence of human life. Also, I'm at an age where I'm not exactly going to melt from happiness.

Q. What inspires you to write?

A. Life itself. Life is so rich in individual variations. I feel that when I meet a human, I'm not meeting a story, but a collection of stories. Those who concentrate on writing for style are making a mistake — styles change. But every time a man and woman fall in love, a new chapter in life and love is created, even though writers have written about it hundreds of thousands of times.

Q. Is your work autobiographical?

A. About three-fourths of it is autobiographical. What writing is not? If you haven't lived them, how can you know certain experiences? You can't get them from reading books.

Q. Did you write as a child?

A. I don't know why, but before I even knew the alphabet, I boasted to the students in the Jewish public school that I was going to write a book. My father and brother were both writing all the time, so it was natural for me to pick it up as well.

My writing career began when I was 12-years-old and read a book by Conan Doyle called, "Sherlock Holmes." I thought it was great, and immediately decided I wanted to write like Doyle. But then I discovered I couldn't imitate Doyle. After reading a story about Holmes following some criminals, I went outside and saw a man and thought to myself, 'he looks suspicious', so I started following him. After several blocks, he turned to me and asked 'Little boy, why are you following me?' I turned and ran.

Q. Do you have any favorite writers?

A. My favorite writers are those of the 19th Century. These writers considered themselves entertainers, not the saviors of humanity. The idea of the writer as entertainer does not exist in the 20th Century, writers are all psychologizers or sociologizers, and literature has gone down because of this.

Writers today all have a message they want to tell us. I think that if all the messages in the world were wiped out and all we were left with were the 10 Commandments, we would have enough messages for the next 10,000 years.

Individual writers I admire are Tolstoy, Pushkin, Dostoyevsky, and Poe. Many people are critical of Poe, but he was an absolute genius. He was one of the great writers of our time. Critics say his stories were just mysteries, but they were much more than that.

Q. What is your relationship to your own writing?

A. I always felt it could be better. There is a saying that man was born in this life to correct the sins of a former life. But I spend all my time correcting the sins I commit every day in this life in my writing.

But there is a limit to how much a person should correct his own writing. It reaches a point where you have to say it is finished. I have a feeling that if Tolstoy, Gogol, or Dostoyevsky were brought back to life, they would take their works and try to change them. Maybe we should think about creating a law that says you can't change your work after it's published.

Q. Have you always written for children, or did it happen in your later years?

A. It happened in my later years. I felt I couldn't write for children and my publisher said I couldn't write for children. But a friend from Harper and Row asked me to write a book for children. I told my publisher about it and he said, "You, a book for children?"

But that turned out to be a success and my publisher said "from now on, all your children's books will be for me."

Writing for children is the same as writing for adults. You have to have a story that has a beginning, a middle, an end, and some suspense. Children are the best readers in the world. An adult might rely on authority — since Shakespeare is considered to be great, they will read all of Shakespeare. But children don't care, the work has to be good, or they will put it down. Adults might be swayed by criticism of advertisements, but children don't care about that.

I wish adults were the equal of children as readers.

Q. What is your favorite language?

A. I know Yiddish best. I was brought up on Yiddish, Hebrew, and Aramaic, and I always said I was brought up on three dead languages. My first impression of English was that it was not a language at all. I couldn't make anything out of it. But after 40 years, I'm convinced there are great treasures hidden in the English language.

Q. Not to seem crass, but what plans do you have for the prize money ($164,000)?

A. Several of my books were not published in Yiddish because it is very hard to find someone who will publish in Yiddish. So, I hope to have them translated into Yiddish.

I hope to do some good things with the money. I hope I'll remain the same person, a prize doesn't make a man.

Did You Know...

Teaching an Old Test New Tricks

MCV researchers have discovered that a long-standing laboratory test with limited application is apparently an effective test for muscular dystrophy in carriers as well as victims in the case of Duchenne muscular dystrophy, the most common and severe form of the disease.

The research team, headed by Dr. Hans-Dieter Gruemer, professor of pathology, also has evidence that seems to support the idea that muscular dystrophy is a general disease involving the entire body, rather than just a muscle cell disorder. Other members of the team included: Dr. Walter E. Nance, chairman of the Department of Human Genetics; Dr. Edward Isaacs, assistant clinical professor of neurology; Dr. Edwin C. Myer, assistant professor of pediatrics; three graduate students working with Gruemer — Dr. Nathan A. Pickard, Dr. Harlan L. Verrill, and Barbara Goldsmith; and Dr. Meinhard Robinow of the University of Virginia.

The team's research indicates that the test may serve as a potential screening and diagnostic test for mothers with a possibility for bearing a child with MD. The test also challenges a prevailing view about Duchenne MD. Theories in the past have indicated that Duchenne involved transmission of the trait from carrier-mothers to their affected sons (this form of MD strikes only males) and that one-third of such case studies were the result of spontaneous mutations.

This test, however, has been found capable of detecting carriers of the trait. When it was applied to 16 mothers of affected sons who were assumed to have been the result of spontaneous mutations, nearly all the mothers were shown to be carriers.

That suggests, Nance says, that most cases of Duchenne arise from women carriers and that the role of spontaneous mutation in females is far less than had been thought.

The studies also indicate that since the test is capable of detecting such carriers, it has the potential for identifying women with the risk of having an affected son.

The test itself is known as the capping test. It has this name because it involves using a florescent dye, in combination with a particular biological substance, which yields an ice cap-like appearance to cells under study. The test indicates an abnormality in the cells' surfaces.

When the dye is applied to white blood cells of normal individuals, more than 50 percent of the cells will develop the capping appearance. But the capping of white blood cells from muscular dystrophy patients is significantly diminished with none to around 20 percent showing the capping feature.

Since the test reflects that something is wrong with the membranes of the cells and since the test was applied to cells that are spread throughout the body, the findings suggest that muscular dystrophy is a general disorder and not specifically a muscular one. There has been other recent, similar evidence from researchers elsewhere, and the MCV discovery adds a great deal of support to this theory.

The project began as basic research into certain aspects of cell membranes before developing into what appears to be this significant discovery.

Diabetes Exploration

Injuries to the body's insulin-producing organs may be the reason that about 10 percent of diabetics, most of them under 30-years-old, contract the disease, according to a team of MCV scientists who are trying to determine a way of reducing the severity of diabetes.

They believe that diabetes occurs in juveniles and young adults through a different process than in older adults. It could be, they surmise, that some external factor, perhaps a virus, injures the cells that produce insulin.

To fund the research of one of the scientists, Dr. Gordon C. Weir, associate professor of medicine, the American Diabetes Association has granted $10,000 to his project of monitoring the growth and development of insulin-producing organs and determining how they respond to injury.

When the project is completed, Weir hopes to have developed a laboratory model which will be useful for scientists to use in studying the regeneration of injured insulin-producing organs.

The organs, called islets, are located in the pancreas. While the pancreas makes digestive juices that are used in the intestines, the islets make two hormones that regulate the metabolism of sugar, and a third that is little understood.

When the islets are injured, at least two of these hormones go awry, causing disruptions in the metabolism of sugar.

In addition to the islet injury study, the scientists are also trying to learn more about the three hormones. The National Institutes of Health granted Weir's research projects $65,000 this year to learn more about two of the substances, glucagon and somatostatin.

Although somatostatin was unknown until its discovery in 1975, MCV scientists and others have already found much about how somatostatin is secreted by the islets. They have laboratory evidence which may show that increases in somatostatin cause reductions in the production of insulin. It influences the release of glucagon and growth hormone, and is found in the brain, nerves, intestine, and pancreas.

Research is aimed at learning what it does in the islet under normal conditions, and how it acts in diabetes. Most scientists believe that it may have an important role in diabetes, and that it may have a great deal to do with diabetes in children.

The Art of Comics

They're called "funnies", and they're usually found someplace in your daily newspaper. But for two weeks in September, the "funnies" rested regally on the walls of VCU's Anderson Gallery. And for the next two years, the "funnies" will journey throughout the state of Virginia as a Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Traveling Exhibit.

This first-ever display of the exhibit was made possible by Dr. M. Thomas Inge, professor and chairman of the Department of English at VCU. Inge, one of the leading comic art authorities in the country (*VCU Magazine*, Summer 1975), organized and served as guest curator of the exhibit. He will also be making lecture appearances at various places with the exhibit as it treks through the state.

Framed and perhaps looking better than they ever did in a newspaper, the exhibit contained some of today's more popular strips, such as *Peanuts* and *B.C.*, as well as several all-time favorites like *L'il Abner* and *Pogo*. Also in the show were some of the first comic strips produced in the country: the *Yellow Kid*, by Richard Outcault, which most histories cite as the first comic strip. Some credit James Swinnerton's *Little Bears and Tykes* as the first comic strip; *Maude the Mule*, by Frederick Burr Opper; *Mister Jack and Little Jimmy*, also by

Dr. M. Thomas Inge, chairman of the English department, is something of a Superman when it comes to comic art.

Swinnerton; *Buster Brown* by Outcault; and *Krazy Kat* by George Herriman.

Inge's interest in the comics did not just start with this exhibit. He once harbored a desire to become a comic artist, but gave it up when he realized he could never be as good as Walt Kelly. From there, he turned his attentions to literature, but never stopped studying and enjoying comic art.

Many others have always enjoyed the funnies, but few have looked at them with the respect of Inge. That may be changing.

"I'm particularly pleased the Museum sponsored this event," he explained. "This could aid the recognition of comics as a major art form. Others have recognized them as this — Picasso was influenced by the comics, and the Louvre held the first major comic art exhibit in 1965."

Putting this, or any comic art exhibit together, posed some problems, mainly getting the desired pieces for the showing.

"The problem is," Inge said, "that comics are easily disposable, so they're just thrown away. Their form has worked as a detriment to their preservation."

Inge was asked to coordinate the exhibit because of his knowledge of comics, his knowledge of collectors in the area, and his previous work with the Museum on the topic of comic art. He donated some of his own collection to the show, and received contributions from other collectors, including Dr. David Manning White, professor of mass communications at VCU, and Phil Trumbo, a VCU graduate, cartoonist, and film maker.

Despite his interest in the funnies, Inge insists he's on no comic crusade.

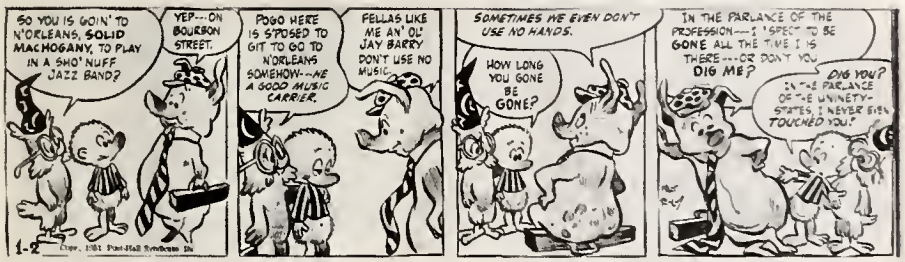
"I just want to study the comics in a fairly tangible, scholarly form," he says. "I'm convinced they're worthy of this and I'm not trying to convince anyone else."

Inge did point out several things that few will disagree with.

"Along with their entertainment function, comics form an important part of our cultural heritage.

"At the best, comics give us things to think about. At the worst, they are always amusing."

Information on when the exhibit will be touring the state may be obtained by contacting the Virginia Museum.



Pogo, *by Walt Kelly, was one of the pieces on display in the comic art exhibit.*

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A Heartbeat Away

A drug widely used to control blood pressure and angina pectoris is under investigation at MCV and 32 other medical institutions in the United States and Canada to determine whether it helps to prevent heart attacks.

The drug, propranolol, is also the subject of another study under way in the MCV biophysics department. Scientists there are conducting experiments to determine whether the heart muscle receives less damage if the drug is given during a heart attack.

According to Dr. William B. Weglicki, chairman of the MCV biophysics department, propranolol may be beneficial in delaying changes in lysosomes, which are sub-cellular particles that are thought to be involved in causing the death of heart muscle cells during a heart attack. Their study is part of a larger effort funded by a three-year, $780,000 grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for laboratory investigations into the process of injury to the heart during heart attacks.

Earlier laboratory work by MCV scientists and others has led to the national study of the drug in human volunteers who have already had one heart attack. In Richmond, patients at MCV Hospitals, McGuire Veterans Administration Hospital, and St. Mary's Hospital are asked by their doctors to participate in the study. They must be enrolled within 21 days following a heart attack.

Propranolol is one of a class of drugs known as beta blockers. It blocks nerve impulses that cause the heart to increase speed and beat harder during exercise, excitement, and emotional stress. Medical scientists speculate that the drug will prevent injured hearts from becoming overworked.

"When a heart with narrowed coronary arteries beats harder and faster, blood supply to the heart's tissues cannot increase as it does in a normal heart," explained the coordinator of the MCV research team, Dr. David W. Richardson, chairman of the Division of Cardiovascular Disease. "So areas surrounding the site of a former heart attack are deprived of blood, a situation that leads to damage. Because propranolol partially prevents the heart from beating harder and faster, further damage might be avoided."

Apparently, there are few disadvantages to the drug, according to physicians who have, for many years, been giving it to patients with high blood pressure. Though it lessens an increase in heart rate during exercise, it does not significantly alter ability of an individual to perform.

The project is seeking 4,300 voluntary participants nationally. In Richmond, 125 will be sought for the MCV portion of the study over the next two years.

Economically Speaking

A group of Richmond area economic experts has predicted a recession sometime this year and the failure of President Carter's wage and price guidelines.

The group, participating in VCU's fifth annual panel discussion on the economic outlook, was composed of S. Buford Scott, chairman of the board of Scott and Stringfellow, a Richmond investment firm; Sally S. Buck, president of Women's Bank in Richmond; Paul H. Riley, chairman and president of Commonwealth Natural Resources Inc.; and Dr. J. H. Yoo, associate professor of economics at VCU. All felt a recession was inevitable, but that it would be a mild one.

"Don't fall for predictions of a major 'bust'," Buck said. "A recession is normal, it's part of the economic cycle."

Buck also said that interest rates on loans would go down during the recession. She added that houses and real estate would continue to appreciate in value, making them good investments.

Scott felt the broad trend in the stock market would be up, rather than down. He said a good time to invest would be after the first of the year. Good short term investments would be in treasury bills and money-market funds. He also said it would not be too early to invest in the stock market, with oils, utilities, building supplies, and aluminum looking like good investments.

The panel felt inflation would continue at a pace near or slightly slower than its present rate.

"As long as we pay a salary rate higher than the productivity rate, we're going to have inflation," Buck said.

She also said that everyone should take some of the blame for inflation and offered several suggestions to fight inflation on an individual basis.

"Restaurants could offer a more varied menu, without having everything start at $5.95," she said. "And when you go out to eat, eat at a place with prices you can afford to pay.

"Be conscious of sales and do-it-yourself repairs. And call or write your congressmen. They care about what their constituents think."

Yoo made several specific predictions: the Gross National Product will grow 2 percent; unemployment will be 7 percent; inflation will be 7.5 percent; and interest rates will rise to 12.5 percent.

All the panelists emphasized one other point — the only thing certain in making forecasts is that something unforeseen will occur.

Taking on a Mouthful

The School of Dentistry has been awarded a five year, $1.5 million grant from the National Institute of Dental Research to establish a clinical research center for the study of periodontal disease.

The disease, which affects nearly 94 million Americans, involves inflammation that can lead to the destruction of the gums and bones that support the teeth, according to Dr. Richard Ranney, associate professor in the Department of Periodontics at MCV. Researchers are seeking the causes of the inflammatory proc-

esses, and are trying to discover how they work.

Dental school investigators will join MCV microbiologists, immunologists and pharmacologists in studying the many puzzling aspects of the disease. They will try to identify the bacteria involved, see if some people are affected more than others by the disease, and work on better treatment methods and preventive measures against the problem.

They will also work closely with a research lab at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, where experts study anaerobes, which are certain bacteria that thrive in the absence of oxygen. This type of bacteria is thought to be primarily involved in periodontal disease.

Ranney believes treatment procedures should improve after investigators identify the bacteria associated with periodontal disease. Then, chemotherapeutic approaches can be aimed at the problem causing agents, he said.

There are only two other clinical research centers in the country conducting studies of periodontal disease. One is located at Forsyth Dental Center at Boston, and the other is at the State University of New York at Buffalo. All are funded by the National Institute of Dental Research.

The Sporting News

The fall sports calendar at VCU was one of great success for some, individual success for others, and great promise for still others.

The most successful team in terms of victories and defeats was the women's volleyball team. The women finished the regular season with a 24-17 record and then went on to capture the state tournament for the fourth consecutive year. The VCU contingent beat VPI&SU, James Madison University, and Radford College to capture the title.

Then it was on to the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women's Region II tournament at Duke University. There, the women's season came to an end as they lost to N.C. State, Tennessee State, and the eventual winner of the region, the University of Kentucky.

The men's soccer team was not successful in terms of won-loss record, but for a first-year squad its record of 4-10 was considered extremely encouraging.

"When you compare our record with the records of other teams in their first year," said Coach Ben Satterfield, "we did perhaps better than any other first-year soccer team in the history of Virginia."

The Rams finished third in the Newport News Apprentice Tournament, and if there are any regrets, they are probably that they couldn't play Newport News Apprentice more often. VCU racked up three of its wins against the shipbuilders. The other victory was against North Carolina Wesleyan.

John Struder, a junior from Alexandria, Va., was named the team's most valuable player.

The team has already begun preparing for next year by starting a winter weight program and entering an indoor soccer league.

The women's field hockey suffered through a dismal 2-7 season. The Rammettes victories came over Randolph-Macon (Ashland) and the Cavalier Club.

While it was not a great year for the team, three individuals did enjoy a measure of success. Theresa Williams, Melinda Reuter, and Claire Patterson were invited to the Southeast Regional try-outs in order to qualify for the AIAW national competition. Williams, a senior physical education major, was chosen to participate in the nationals.

Women's tennis tuned up for the spring season and ended up with a record of 2-3-1. The women handed Randolph-Macon and Christopher Newport defeats, and was deadlocked with Longwood when the match had to be called due to rain.

Briefly

Beta Sigma Phi of Richmond, the local chapter of a national service-oriented sorority, has donated a portable real-time ultrasound machine to the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at MCV.

The machine, which cost $25,000, uses sound waves to take motion pictures of a baby's movements while it is still in the mother's womb. It is used to determine the number of babies present, as a monitor of the baby during labor, as an aid in performing Caesarian births, and as a diagnostic tool for disease. The machine is one of the first four of its type in the country.

Wendy Golden, an MCV graduate of the Department of Human Genetics, has received a Fulbright-Hays grant for graduate study in Norway during this academic year.

There, she will collaborate with other scientists in an international study of birth defects in the families of twins. The data obtained will be used for genetic analysis of the causes of intertility.

An ethnic literature specialist at Virginia Commonwealth University has compiled a collection of folktales told by black Americans.

Shuckin' and Jivin', published by the Indiana University Press, was assembled by Dr. Daryl C. Dance, an assistant professor of English. It is comprised of more than 550 folktales, anecdotes, songs, toasts, and maxims, mostly humorous. The humor is frequently grim, particularly in the contemporary items.

Dance's material was collected from blacks who live in Virginia or grew up in the state. They range from poor to affluent and from illiterate to highly educated.

The Virginia Realtors Foundation has given VCU $100,000 for salary and operation of the real estate and land development instructional program in the university's School of Business.

Whatever Happened To...

Hurray for Hollywood

Stephen Furst, B.F.A. '76, is understandably ecstatic about his role in, and the success of, National Lampoon's Animal House.

Along the way, we all have to pay some dues. Stephen Furst paid his topped with anchovies, mushrooms, and pepperoni.

Furst, who graduated from VCU in 1976 with a bachelor of fine arts degree in dramatic arts, used to deliver pizzas in Los Angeles. But if any of his former classmates saw him today, he would probably be delivering his lines in the extremely successful movie *National Lampoon's Animal House.*

It all started with a U-Haul truck, his wife, and a cross-country drive to Los Angeles.

"Two weeks after I graduated, we loaded everything into the truck, towed our car behind us, and headed for Los Angeles," said Furst, who attended VCU under the name of Stephen Fuerstein.

But once he arrived on the west coast, Furst found dramatic work was nonexistent. So the Norfolk native was relegated to delivering pizzas for a local restaurant in order to put pasta on the table. It was not the best time of his life.

"There were times when I was very depressed, times when I wanted to just forget it all," he said in a telephone interview from Universal Studios. "But my wife, Lorraine (also a VCU graduate) would talk me into staying."

And it proved to be more than just idle chatter.

After a year of listening to people complain about getting their pizzas cold, Furst got his first big break. His agent ("you have to have an agent in Los Angeles," Furst said. "Studios won't talk with you personally, everything has to be done through an agent.") heard about casting for *Animal House* and sent Furst over. Six auditions later, he had the role of Flounder, a naive, freshman on a college campus, and Furst's career is floundering no more.

"I've made three movies since *Animal House,*" he said, "*Swim Team* in San Francisco, *Soft Explosion* in Los Angeles, and *Take Them* in Utah. They're all comedies.

"I'm also going to be in a television series based on *Animal House.* Universal is making it, and it has the same title as the movie. It has already been sold to ABC and is scheduled to premier in February."

And there's more, much more.

"I've got a role in a variety show entitled 'Bizarre', and that stars Richard Dawson (of "Hogan's Heroes," "Family Feud," and "Match Game" fame) and Steve Martin (of wild and crazy guy fame)."

Those are just the offers he accepted. Some of the jobs he had the luxury of turning down are as big as the proverbial fish that got away.

"Paramount Studios offered me $30,000 to be in a pilot they were doing for television, based on *Animal House.* That would have been for two weeks work, but I turned it down. I didn't see any way for it to be successful. Universal's version is already sold for television and about half the cast of the movie is in it (John Belushi is not). I'm not sure if Paramount's version will ever even get on the air."

But don't touch that dial yet, there's even more to come.

"CBS offered me a series of my own. They told me I would be the principle character and it wouldn't be a gang-type situation. But I decided not to do it.

"I was totally amazed at all the offers I had. I didn't know which way to turn. At times like that, you think that every decision you make is crucial and is going to determine the rest of your career," Furst said. "But it isn't. When you've been associated with a movie that's been as successful as *Animal House,* which has made over $100 million, and you've had a leading role, there's always going to be work. Right now, it's very nice to be able to support myself with my work."

For now, that work seems to center around Furst playing Flounder-like characters in most of his appearances.

"I don't mind that," Furst said. "Right now, I owe my career to the character. I do get to do some different characters in 'Bizarre,' though."

If you can't catch Furst in any of his movie or television appearances, you might keep your eye on *People* Magazine.

"UCLA was having a toga party (a fad started by "Animal House") and some of the people from the movie went over there. *People* was there, so we dressed my son, who was three months old at the time, up in a toga, complete with laural wreath. *People* had a spread about the party, complete with my son and me."

With all this success has come the usual deluge of attention, interviews, and time demands. But when you've been driving around Los Angeles for a year with tomato paste as a constant companion, that probably doesn't seem to be too high a price to pay.

"I don't mind the interviews, as long as the people are polite," Furst said. "And I'm always glad to do something for VCU, that's my school. If I ever get the opportunity, I'd like to go back to the theatre department and speak to some of the classes."

And if he ever does return to the university, one of Hollywood's newest stars will have some rather interesting advice for all the aspiring Hollywood stars.

"I'd tell them to pick another career," Furst said. "I just happened to be in the right place at the right time. It can take years to get the kind of break I got, and then it might be in only a moderately successful picture, not one nearly as successful as *Animal House.* There are people who have been out here a lot longer than I have, and they're still working as waiters, waitresses, and bartenders.

"You're a commodity out here. If you can sell, you'll get work. But it's extremely difficult to get work."

If you take a new job, get a promotion, earn another degree, receive an honor, or decide to retire, share the news with us, and we will pass it along to your classmates via the "Whatever Happened to . . ." section. Please address newsworthy items to Editor, VCU MAGAZINE, *Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia 23284.*

'41

Dr. M. Jane Page (M.D. '41) has retired as administrative chief medical consultant for the state of Virginia's Disability Determination Service. She worked for the service for 23 years and, upon her retirement, received a cer-

tificate of recognition from Governor John Dalton "for exemplifying always the highest traditions of the healing profession."

Roy W. Smith (B.S. pharmacy '41) has been elected a director of Owens, Minor and Bodeker Inc., a Richmond-based medical supply firm. Smith is senior vice president and general manager of the pharmaceutical division of A. H. Robins Co.

'45

Dr. Reece R. Boone, Jr. (M.D. '45), formerly chief of surgery and chief of staff of the Northwest Community hospital in Mooreland, Okla., has moved his medical practice to the Watonga Clinic in Watonga, Okla.

'46

Patricia R. Perkinson (B.S. sociology '46; M.S. psychology '56) has been appointed director of Community Services for J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College. Perkinson served as Secretary of the Commonwealth during Mills E. Godwin's, Jr., second term as governor of Virginia.

'47

Dr. Forrest W. Pitts (M.D. '47) has been named health director for Henrico County, Va. Pitts formerly served as medical director and superintendent of the Blue Ridge Sanatorium in Charlottesville, Va.

'51

Carl E. Bain (B.S. pharmacy '51) chairman, state board of Community Colleges, was commencement speaker for Central Virginia Community College's summer graduation exercises. Bain is listed in *Virginia Lives*, *Who's Who in American Politics*, and *Personalities of the South*.

Don Hunziker (B.S. business '51) has been named president of the furniture division of The Sperry and Hutchinson Co. He is a former president of Lea Industries, Inc., one of S&H's six furniture manufacturing subsidiaries.

George J. Janosik (B.S. pharmacy '51), after owning Central Drug Co., in Hopewell, Va., for 25 years, has merged with Georges Drug Co. No. 2. The business is known as Georges Central Drug Co., and is still located in Hopewell.

'55

John G. Royster (B.S. business '55) has been named women's tennis coach at VCU.

'58

Kay Boatwright Brown (B.S. '58; M.S. distributive education '60) is a writer and editor of books dealing with vocational education and marketing. She is currently working on her seventh book, which provides a blueprint for college students who wish to pursue a career in real estate. She is scheduled to write two more books, one dealing with the travel business, and the other on banking. Her previous efforts have covered such topics as getting jobs and learning marketing skills.

James Bumgardner (B.F.A. '58) recently had an exhibition of his work with enigmatic interiors on display at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond.

Dr. Bernard V. Franko (Ph.D. graduate studies '58) has been named director of good laboratory practices at the Du Pont Co., plant in Chesterfield County, Va.

'59

Emile Cahen (Art '59) displayed his watercolors at Chesterfield Mall in Richmond recently.

Dr. R. William Dent, Jr. (M.D. '59) has been promoted to director of medical affairs for marketed products at A. H.Robins Co., in Richmond. He previously served as senior physician in the company's medical department.

Donald H. Snodgrass (B.S. distributive education '59) has been appointed chief of the Field Operations and Services Branch of the Division of Adult Education of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

'60

Clyde R. Hodge (B.S. pharmacy '60) has been appointed to the position of assistant director of manufacturing for A. H. Robins Co., in Richmond.

Patricia Draper Rose (B.F.A. commercial art '60) recently exhibited some of her paintings and drawings in the Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas — a Inc., in Richmond; and is currently dental practice in Churchville, Va.

Bob Stephenson (B.S. social science '60) has been accepted to the clown unit of Oasis Temple in Charlotte, N. C.

Toy F. Watson (M.S.S.W. '60) has been appointed director of pupil services for the Newport News, Va., school system.

Charles W. Wiggs (M.H.A. '60) has become a member of the American College of Hospital Administrators. Wiggs was required to pass oral and written examinations to reach membership status. He is administrator of

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the Wallace Memorial Baptist Hospital in Pusan, Korea, and is also a Southern Baptist missionary.

'63

Clifford L. Brown, Jr. (B.S. business '63) has been appointed assistant to the controller of Philip Morris, U.S.A. This is the largest of the operating companies of Philip Morris Inc.

'64

Stephen J. Lux (B.S. business '64) was one of the prime movers behind the establishment of Consulting Associates, a newly formed management consulting firm in Richmond.

Dr. Thomas J. Spicuzza (M.D. '64) has been appointed medical director of the Woodrow Wilson Rahabilitation Center in Fisherville, Va.

William H. Walters, (B.S. business administration '64) has been named director of human resources for Stuart Circle Hospital in Richmond.

'65

Wayne Wawner (B.S. applied social science '65) has been appointed assistant principal at Petersburg, Va., High School.

'66

Dr. Colon Rivadeneira (Residency-pediatrics '66) has joined the staff of the Meadows Professional Center in Mechanicsville, Va.

'67

Abram H. Clymer (B.S. retailing '67) has opened the Centerpoint Book Store in the Valley Mall shopping center in Harrisonburg, Va.

William Gartman (M.S.S.W. '67) has been promoted to the rank of professor of social work at East Carolina University. Gartman has been a member of the ECU faculty for 10 years. He is serving a second two-year term on the North Carolina Council on Social Work Education and is a site visitor for the National Council on Social Work Education. Gartman is listed in *Who's Who in the South-Southwest* and *Outstanding Educators of America.* In addition to his teaching duties, he directs ECU's field education program for social work and correctional services.

Dr. H. F. Selden (D.D.S. '67) has opened the Meadows Professional Center in Mechanicsville, Va. The Center, where Selden also has his dental practice, houses the offices of one other dentist and a pediatrician.

Since his graduation for VCU, **Richard Smith** (B.S. recreational leadership '67) has been involved in a variety of activities. He has earned two degrees from Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas—a master of religious education degree and a graduate specialist in religious education degree. He has served as Minister of Education and Youth at Princess Anne Plaza Baptist Church in Virginia Beach, Va.; supervisor for Business Opportunities for the Blind, Inc., in Richmond; and is currently Minister of Music and Education for Elmwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

John Turner (M.S.W. '67) was the featured speaker at the fall convocation at Virginia Intermont College.

'68

Thomas W. O'Brien (B.S. general business '68) has been named a trust officer at First and Merchants National Bank in Richmond.

Ida Morgan Trusch (B.F.A. art '68; M.F.A. sculpture '70) recently exhibited her work in sculptures made from materials and forms derived from maritime riggings, tools, and natural matter at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond.

'69

John M. Barber (B.F.A. communication arts and design '69) has gained national recognition for his marine painting of the Chesapeake Bay and the ships and activities that take place on the Bay. Four of his recent paintings have been published in a limited edition lithographic series by Commodore Galleries in Alexandria, Va., and are available in 18 states. Barber is a charter member of the American Society of Marine Artists.

Horton P. Beirne (B.S. journalism '69), general manager, editor, and second vice president of the Covington *Virginian*, has been named to the Covington, Va., advisory board by the First National Exchange Bank of Virginia.

William M. Ginther (B.S. business management '69; M.S. business '74) has been elected a vice president of United Virginia Bankshares Inc. He previously served as the company's data control manager, assistant operations officer, operations officer, and assistant vice president.

M. Thomas Lowe (B.S. social welfare '69; M.S.W. '71) recently observed the social services institutions and delivery systems in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and the U.S.S.R.

Dr. W. Timothy Sweeny (D.D.S. '69; Ph.D. anatomy '73) has opened his dental practice in Churchville, Va.

'70

Ester Leiper Estabrooks (B.A. English '70) recently finished teaching several poetry classes as part of the White Mountains Festival for the Arts in Jefferson, N.H.

Louise Bono Heite (B.F.A. art history '70) has received her M.A. degree in American Studies from the University of Delaware.

John Michael Herndon (B.S. accounting '70) has been appointed controller of the Wilson Trucking Corp., in Fisherville, Va.

Lucille C. Oman (B.S. elementary education '70) has retired after spending 23½ years as a teacher. She taught in the Chesterfield County, Va., and Richmond school systems and spent the last seven-and-a-half years in the Campbell County, Va., system.

Rev. T. A. Powell (B.S. history education '70) has been named pastor of the Liberty Baptist Church in Suffolk, Va.

Billy R. Solesbee (M.H.A. '70), a major in the U.S. Air Force, has assumed his duties at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. Solesbee is a health services administrator with a unit of the Air Force Systems Command.

'71

John T. Anderson (B.S. health and physical education '71; M.Ed. administration and supervision '78) has been inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, a national honor society recognizing outstanding academic achievement.

Alice Bland Collier (M.Ed. counselor education '71) recently took a brief respite from her job as associate dean at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla., to serve as ship's cook aboard the S.V. Unicorn. The ship was used in the filming of *Roots* and the *Bermuda Triangle.* The excursion was a part of the floating classroom of the Unicorn Maritime Institute, Inc.

Alice Royster Denton (B.S. distributive education '71) has been named manager of The Mall, a shopping center in Manassas, Va.

Robert Ellithorpe (B.M.E. '71) performed a graduate recital at the Cannon Memorial Chapel at the University of Richmond. He is instructor of trombone at the university, as well as an instrumental music instructor in five public schools in Hanover County, Va.

Thomas R. King, Jr. (B.S. psychology '71) an attorney in the Office of the General Counsel of the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C., represented VCU at the inauguration of the first president of the University of the District of Columbia.

James M. Mann (B.S. accounting '71) has accepted a position in the corporate

services department of Wheat, First Securities.

Ed Westlow (B.S. journalism '71) has received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. He has accepted a position as an associte with the Wall Street law firm of Simpson Thatcher and Bartlett.

'72

John A. Gorman (M.H.A. '72), lieutenent colonel in the U.S. Air Force, has been assigned to duty at Lackland Air Force Base, Lackland, Texas. Gorman will be associate administrator of the Wilford Hall Medical Center.

David L. Griffith (B.S. advertising '72) has been named public relations director for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond. Griffith will be responsible for planning, developing, and organizing all public relations, information, and promotional activities for the museum.

Dr. Mae Howell Jesneck (B.S. general science '72; D.D.S. '78) has opened her dental practice in Bassett, Va. She is Bassett's first female dentist.

Jane Elizabeth Miller (B.S. nursing '72) has assumed her duties as a nurse with a unit of the Military Airlift Command in the U.S. Air Force at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. She holds the rank of lieutenant.

Terrence O'Toole (M.Ed. counselor education '72) has been appointed assistant principal at Dozier Intermediate School in Newport News, Va.

Virginia C. Veritz (B.F.A. art education '72) is industrial cooperative training coordinator at George Marshall High School in Fairfax County, Va.

Dr. John B. Willey (M.D. '72) has been appointed to the associate medical staff of the Winchester, Va., Memorial Hospital. Willey will practice obstretics and gynecology.

'73

Dr. Robert E. Harris (Ph.D. microbiology '73) received the Purdue Frederick Award for the year's outstanding paper concerning antibodies in pregnancy.

Sturling Williams Hayes (B.S. retailing '73) has been appointed buyer of all frame products of the House of Vision, Inc., a chain of 150 optical stores. She will be responsible for restructuring the basic frame line and for developing special product promotions for the optical stores.

Deborah Jones Kemper (M.M. applied music '73), a flutist in the Roanoke Symphony, was one of four musicians to perform for the opening meeting of the Roanoke Symphony Auxiliary. Kemper is flute instructor at Roanoke College and directs its preparatory division of music.

John B. Smith (B.S. business administration '73) has been awarded the professional insurance designation of Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter. Smith is an associate in the company of George Duvall and Associates in Norfolk, Va. He is also an instructor for the Tidewater Chapter of the Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriters. The CPCU designation was awarded by the American Institute for Property and Liability Underwriters to those who met the ethical, examination, and experience requirements.

Larry Verbit (B.F.A. dramatic art and speech '73) has been appointed executive director of the Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center in York, Pa., community. Verbit will be responsible for coordinating restoration of the Strand and Capital theatres, fundraising, programming, and overall facility management and operation.

'74

Isaac Olujimi Ajijola (B.S. marketing '74; M.B.A. international business '76) has accepted the position of manager, International Department of the United Bank for Africa, Ltd., in Lagos, Nigeria.

Molly Kent Trimble Diller (B.S. English education '74) is teaching English at Lexington, Va., High School. She is also sponsor of the drama club.

Roger M. Eitelman (M.H.A.'74) has been named administrator of Hampton, Va., General Hospital.

Bruce Haynes (B.A. history '74; M.P.A. '78) has been named director of the State Water Control Board's Division of Administration. He will oversee the Board's personnel, purchasing, drafting, graphics, warehousing, and marine repair functions.

Sharon Lawless (B.F.A. painting and printmaking '74), a part-time instructor at VCU, recently exhibited her paintings at the 1708 East Main Gallery in Richmond.

'75

Susan Lockridge Bumgarner (B.S. nursing '75) will be a part-time health occupations instructor at the Mertz Vocational Center of Bath County High School for the 1978-79 term.

Dr. Thomas Franklin Craggs III (M.D. '75) has joined the Blackstone Family Practice Center in Blackstone, Va.

Vernon Drinkwater (B.S. recreation '75) has joined the Washington, D.C., company of Alperstein Brothers, Inc., as their sales representative for recreation equipment and outdoor furniture. Drinkwater, who lives in Virginia Beach, Va., has all of Virginia and part of Maryland as his sales territory.

Nancy Quinn Fulton (B.M. sacred music '75) has accepted the position of Minister of Music at Elkhardt Baptist Church in Richmond.

Rodney Ganey (B.S. sociology and anthropology '75) has received his M.S. degree in sociology from Iowa State University.

Dabney Gill-Cortina (B.S. mass communications '75) has been named a vice president of WGOE-Radio Inc., in Richmond. She has been with the station for three years as an account executive.

Dr. Ronald Haden (D.D.S. '75) has moved his practice to the Meadows Professional Center in Mechanicsville, Va.

Dr. Edgar F. Jessee, Jr. (M.D. '75) was one of two physicians to receive a fellowship from the Virginia Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation. The fellowships total $35,000 and will enable Jessee to specialize in a two-year program that will lead to certification as a rheumatologist, a physician who treats arthritis.

Dr. Garry Henry Kuiken (M.D. '75) has opened the Floyd Family Practice Center in Floyd, Va. He previously worked at the Family Practice Center in Blackstone, Va.

Thomas E. Whitfield, Jr. (B.S. mass communications '75) has been appointed United Press International News Center editor in Washington, D.C. Whitfield will supervise the region's news center, which edits and files regional news to Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Janet Cooke Woody (B.A. English '75) has accepted a job as a librarian at the State Library of Virginia. She will be working in the Technical Services Department as a cataloger.

Dr. Gene Yoder (M.D. '75) has opened a medical practice in Harrisonburg, Va.

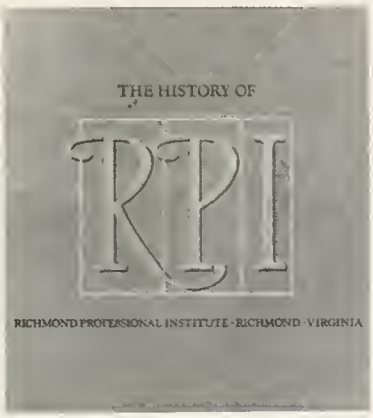
'76

Lois Davis Brichta (M.S. nursing '76) has joined the University of New Mexico College of Nursing faculty. Her major fields of interest will be prenatal nursing and high risk pregnancies.

James C. Chalkley (B.F.A. crafts '76) received his M.F.A. degree from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University in Alfred, N.Y., and has been appointed instructor of design and ceramics at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va.

Thornton Douglas Cline (B.M.E. '76) guest conducted two of his compositions, *Gifisoma* and *Onemo*, at the New York State School Music Association Conference. Cline was recently ap-

The History of RPI



Dr. Henry H. Hibbs has written a personal account of Richmond Professional Institute from its modest beginning in 1917 to its consolidation with the Medical College of Virginia to form Virginia Commonwealth University in 1968. The book, entitled **The History of the Richmond Professional Institute,** is hardbound in an attractive 8"×11" format, contains 164 pages, and is generously illustrated with photographs and drawings.

The book, priced at $12.50, has been published by the RPI Foundation and is available exclusively through the Alumni Activities Office.

Alumni Activities Office
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia 23284

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pointed music director of the Baptist Temple in Rochester, N.Y. He was also elected vice president and treasurer of the Eastman School of Music Graduate Student Association in Rochester, where he is working toward his doctorate.

Rhonda Coffin (B.F.A. crafts '76), a jewelery maker, recently exhibited pieces of her work in a one-artist show at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond.

Ronald Coleman (B.F.A. painting and printmaking '76) recently had his paintings in a one-man show at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond.

Carol Cooper (B.S. recreational administration '76) has received a master of public administration degree from Indiana State University. She is currently employed as deputy director of the Human Rights Commission in Indianapolis, Ind.

Willie Cosby IV (B.S. business administration '76) had been promoted to controller of the Tire Corporation of America.

Peter Eckert (B.S. mass communications '76) has been named office manager for the Woodbridge office of Robert B. Miller Associates, a real estate appraisal firm. He has worked for the firm since 1975.

William Ellis (B.S. business administration '76) has been named manager of the Doane Agricultural Service Inc., appraisal office, which recently opened in Richmond.

Freda E. Falk (B.S. mass communications '76) has accepted a position in the production department of KNME-TV, the public television station in Albuquerque, N.M.

Judy Burton Hamby (B.S. special education '76) has received her M.A. degree in education from East Tennessee State University.

Dr. Richard Mercer (B.S. psychology '76) has graduated from the Eastern Virginia Medical School, earning his M.D. degree. Mercer is performing his residency at Richmond's Chippenham Hospital. Mercer is particularly proud of his degree since he is 38-years-old.

Judy Riddle (B.S. accounting '76) received her juris doctor degree from T.C. Williams Law School at the University of Richmond.

Luther C. Thomas (B.S. accounting '76) has been promoted to manager of the 360 West Office of Citizens Savings and Loan Association in Richmond. He was formerly assistant manager of the company's Bon Air Office.

'77

Paul E. Crouch (M.S.W. '77) is employed as a clinical social worker and co-term leader at Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute in Danville, Va.

Leslie Begoon Curtin (B.S. sociology and anthropology '77) is employed as administrative assistant, National Anthropological Film Center at the Smithsonian Institution. The film center conducts research film studies in cultures which have evolved in isolation and are undergoing rapid social and cultural change.

Martin H. Gerr (B.S. mass communications '77) assistant golf professional at Stonehenge Golf and Country Club in Richmond, has been named golf coach at VCU. Gerr is a former member of the VCU golf team.

Willie Hall (B.F.A. sculpture '77) recently exhibited his paintings at the 1708 East Main Gallery in Richmond.

Dr. Charles J. Horan, Jr. (D.D.S. '77) has opened his dental office in Mechanicsville, Va. He has served as a Hanover County Health Department dentist.

Dr. John C. Smith (D.D.S. '77) has returned to his native Ashland, Va., where he has opened a dental practice. He spent the past year in Newport News.

Earl Sudduth (B.S. recreation '77) has been named director of the Albermarle County, Va., Department of Parks and Recreation.

Brian J. Waple (B.M.E. '77) recently completed his technical training at Lackland Air Force Base, Lackland, Texas, and has been promoted to airman. He is serving as an instrumentalist at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

'78

Barbara Watts Beard (M.S. business '78) has been inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, a national honor society recognizing outstanding academic achievement.

Jimm Bissett (B.S. mass communications '78) has accepted a position with the Home Life Beneficial Life Insurance Company in Richmond.

Dr. James R. Blanchard (D.D.S. '78) has established a dental practice in Alberta, Va.

William G. Bradshaw (M.P.A. '78) has been appointed director of the Division of Management Services for the State Water Control Board. His duties will include directing the Board's planning and fiscal activities.

Joe Browning (B.S. mass communications '78) has returned to his home town of Danville, Va., where he accepted a position on the sports staff of the Danville *Bee*.

Robert Burnett (M.S.W. '78) has accepted a job as investigator with the Richmond Juvenile Courts.

Mary Virginia Daniel (M.H.A. '78) has accepted the position of assistant administrator for the Danville Memorial Hospital in Danville, Va. She will be responsible for general administrative duties in the support departments of the hospital.

Melissa Davis (B.S. special education '78) is employed in Hillsville, Va., as a teacher at the Southwestern Virginia Training Center for the Mentally Retarded.

Paul Draisey (B.S. mass communications '78) has been named news director of WAGE-Radio in Leesburg, Va.

Aubrey "Chip" Duncan (B.S. mass communications '78) is a staff writer for the Tampa, Fla., *Times* newspaper, where he covers the police beat.

James M. Dunham (M.P.A. '78) has been named director of the State Water Control Board. Dunham was formerly director of the Board's Division of Management Services. His new responsibilities include supervision of the Board's three administrative divisions.

Jan Marie Ely (B.S.W. '78) has accepted a position with Westminister-Canterbury House in Richmond.

Dr. Carroll S. Gallagher, Jr. (D.D.S. '78) has accepted a position in the University of Virginia General Practice Residency program.

Deborah Lynn Garbee (B.F.A. painting and printmaking '78) recently exhibited three of her paintings at the Danville, Va., Museum of Fine Arts and History.

Clay B. Hall (B.S. mass communications '78) has been named general manager of *Richmond Magazine*. Hall had been serving as advertising director for the magazine. Formerly owned by the Metropolitan Richmond Chamber of Commerce, the magazine is now an independent publication owned by Virginia Magazine, Inc.

Dr. Paul Hanzel (D.D.S. '78) has opened his dental practice in Fredericksburg, Va.

Mike Harris (B.S. mass communications '78) has joined the staff of the Richmond *News Leader* as a sportswriter.

Richard Holder (B.S. pharmacy '78) has joined the staff of the Bath County, Va., Community Hospital.

Donald Jones (B.S. pharmacy '78) is working as a pharmacist at the Wise Appalachian Regional Hospital in Norton, Va.

Dr. Morris L. Jordan (D.D.S. '78) has joined the dental practice of Dr. Ron Rosenthal in Virginia Beach, Va.

Dr. Donald McLean (D.D.S. '78) has assumed his first active duty assignment for the U.S. Air Force at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska. McLean, a captain, will serve as a general dentist with a unit of the Alaskan Air Command.

Joel Moses (M.F.A. crafts '78) spent two months in a special arts workshop at a plumbing fixture manufacturing plant in order to prove that such fixtures can be decorative as well as utilitarian. The results of the program, which was sponsored by the Kohler Co., and the National Endowment for the Arts, are a part of the exhibit "8 Artist in Industry," which has been touring the country.

Patricia Fore Nichols (M.S. business '78) has been inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, a national honor society recognizing outstanding academic achievement.

Thomas E. Owen, Jr. (B.M.E. '78) has accepted the position of band director at Bayside High School in Bayside, Va.

Aparna Raghu (M.Ed. biology education) has accepted a job as plant consultant in the Richmond office of VPI & SU Extension Service. As a plant consultant, she answers questions about insects or diseases plaguing houseplants or lawn trees and shrubbery. She also analyzes plant samples and holds programs at city facilities or camps.

Dr. Wilfred P. Ramalho (D.D.S. '78) has graduated from the U.S. Air Force medical service officers orientation course at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas. He now goes to Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada where he will serve as a dental officer with a unit of the Tactical Air Command. He holds the rank of captain.

Wayne Reese (B.S. pharmacy '78) has accepted a position at Franklin Memorial Hospital in Rocky Mount, Va. In addition to dispensation of drugs and medication, Reese will provide in-service training for the hospital nursing and professional staff in specific drug and pharmaceutical topics.

Dan Shorter (B.S. mass communications '78) is a copy editor for the West Palm Beach, Fla., *Post* newspaper.

Vickie Hopkins Southall (B.S. nursing '78) has accepted a nursing position in pediatrics at Chippenham Hospital in Richmond.

Matthew Spady (B.M. applied music '78) recently presented a sacred music concert at St. John's United Church of Christ in Richmond.

Rebecca Tyree (B.M.E. '78) is teaching choral music at Robious Junior High School in Chesterfield County, Va.

Jane Massey Walton (M.Ed. elementary education '78) is the reading language arts teacher at West Point, Va., Elementary School.

Bill Warren (B.S. mass communications '78) has joined the staff of the Tampa, Fla., *Times* newspaper as a staff writer.

Rings and Diplomas

Class Rings

Even if you failed to buy a class ring as a student, you can now order one. Rings for both men and women are available in a wide variety of styles. For more information and a price list, write for a ring order kit and please, specify whether the ring is for a man or a woman.

Confirmation Diplomas

If you earned a degree (not a certificate) from Richmond Professional Institute prior to its becoming Virginia Commonwealth University, you can get a confirmation diploma from VCU. Just write for an application form and return it with $10 to cover the cost of the new diploma.

For the confirmation diploma application form and the ring order kit-price list, please write: Alumni Activities Office, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia 23284.

Letters

Dear Editor:

I was surprised to see the cover of the fall 1978 issue of the *VCU Magazine*, and the article, "Bittersweet Behavior", complete with sensational illustrations. Many certainly must believe in it since it is backed by the prestige of a university.

No reputable medical journal would accept a similar article for publication. I am appalled that "criminologists, teachers, parents, and the public" are being "educated" on this hypothesis on the basis of the evidence presented. Knowledge about hypoglycemia is not new and not original with Dr. Hippchen, but hypoglycemia is by far less frequent than crime.

What happened to "the scientific method" usually taught in colleges and universities? Shall I truly "beware of my friends with a sweet tooth?"

Dolores Mendez-Cashion, M.D., '37

Dear Editor;

Concerning the essay in the fall issue of *VCU Magazine* by Dr. Leonard Hippchen: aside from the objectionable post hoc reasoning, plus the dubious support of Dr. Linus Pauling's concepts of "orthomolecular medicine", I am writing to protest the implications of the cover of this issue and the same picture that appears with Dr. Hippchen's essay. I am writing specifically to criticize the depiction of a pistol (the one in the picture is a Parabellum model 1908, or "Luger") as symbolic of crime. This indicates to me either a deliberate attempt to propagandize or more likely simple ignorance of some of the facts of life concerning the relationship of firearms and crime.

Let the record show that less than 4 percent of all felony crime in which a weapon of any kind may be used (which eliminates non-violent felonies such as embezzelment, fraud, etc.) involves the use of a firearm. If there is any relationship between the availability of firearms in a given state or community so far as the structure of the area's gun control laws, the relationship shows a slight but distinct inverse trend. In other words, those states, cities, and areas that have little or more lenient statutory regulation of firearms tend to have a lower crime rate than those areas with a high level of statutory control of firearms. This happens to also be true on a national level in that there a number of countries that have much more stringent firearm control laws than the United States and also happen to have a higher incidence of crimes of violence. One example commonly presented by the antigun fanatics putatively to show the contrary is the fact that violent crime, including homicide, is much less common in Japan than in the United States and this, by post hoc reasoning, is credited to the very stringent firearm controls in Japan that virtually prohibit any private citizen from owning any firearm. The antigun fanatics, however, do not bother to add that the violent crime rate, including homicide, for Japanese-Americans living in the United States is even lower still than for Japanese citizens living in Japan, though any Japanese-American can buy a rifle, pistol, or shotgun, subject to local laws, the same as any other American citizen can.

A more appropriate cover to illustrate the article might have been something like someone in a striped convict suit sucking on a lollipop.

Alexander C. Johnson, M.D. '43
Montana Neurological Clinic, Great Falls, Montana
Life-Endowment member of the National Rifle Association

Dear Editor:

I am surprised that *VCU Magazine* would carry an article containing as much misinformation and speculation as the one by Dr. Leonard Hippchen ("Bittersweet Behavior," Fall 1978). Current research will document few of his farfetched claims. Dr. Hippchen is obviously out of his field.

Faye Paris, Dietetic Internship '43
R.D., M.P.H.

Dear Editor:

I have had the privilege of reading the article "Bittersweet Behavior" which appeared in the Fall, 1978 issue of *VCU Magazine*. I never thought I would live to see the day that VCU, or any other medical school for that matter, would allow such a basic and logical article to be published that is so fundamentally anti-establishment.

I have travelled almost all over the free world and have pioneered much in ophthalmology as far as the relationships that Dr. Leonard Hippchen has so well outlined and forthrightly stated.

Dr. Hippchen made statements in his article that are more fundamental than most medical schools at the academic level wish to acknowledge.

The basic reason for the lack of knowledge is the fact that biochemistry is not understood. The molecular cellular imbalances that occur in human microphysiology are completely ignored and the academic level of approach at the cell behavior patterns and whatever cells constitute the human body are bypassed. We look only at the behavior patterns that are the result of these irregularities.

I look forward to the day when medicine will be taught at this fundamental level of the cells, not only in the chemical patterns, but also in physiology. This will give our whole approach to human behavior and human disorders, which we label disease, a completely new dimension. This is the future of the health industry.

Morgan B. Raiford, M.D., '37
Atlanta Eye Clinic

Travel

Make this the year you take the vacation you deserve. VCU alumni and friends can choose from such intriguing destinations as Ireland, Switzerland, the Rhine River, and Sicily.

Ireland, the land of St. Patrick and Sean O'Casey, is the destination May 16-24. This Irish adventure includes: round-trip jet transportation aboard a Trans International Airlines DC-10; deluxe accommodations in Dublin, Tralee, and Limerick; daily continental breakfasts; and a variety of optional tours available at bargain prices. This enchanting Irish trip is only $469 (plus a 15 percent tax and service charge) per person, based on double occupancy.

Switzerland's Thyon 2000, an internationally acclaimed resort will be enjoyed by VCU travelers June 12-20. This Swiss vacation features: round-trip flight on a DC-10; continental breakfasts daily; a welcoming party; beautiful accommodations with a private terrace overlooking the Alps; and numerous low cost optional tours. Relax at Thyon 2000 for the price of $399 (plus a 15 percent tax and service charge) per person, double occupancy.

Upcoming destinations for summer and fall will include a Rhine River Cruise and a trip to Sicily. Details on these vacations will appear in future issues of *VCU Magazine*.

For additional information, please contact the Alumni Activities Offices, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia 23284, or telephone (804) 257-1228.

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